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One Hundred Seventeenth
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

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February 17th, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

For over a year, Democrats in the House of Representatives have sought to exploit the violence of January 6, 2021 for partisan political purposes. Democrats have gone as far as to publicly accuse their Republican colleagues of organizing so-called “reconnaissance” tours of the Capitol Complex in advance of January 6. These claims are baseless. We have reviewed the security footage for the relevant period, and it does not support these wild accusations. We demand that you release this footage immediately so that the American people can see the truth and judge for themselves why Democrats are so willing to mislead about the events of January 6.

On January 13, 2021, a group of 34 Democrats, led by Representative Mikie Sherrill, wrote to the Acting House Sergeant-at-Arms, the Acting Senate Sergeant-at-Arms, and the Acting Chief of U.S. Capitol Police calling for an investigation into “suspicious behavior” by groups in the Capitol Complex on January 5.¹ These Democrats alleged without evidence that these tours were tied to the violence of January 6, writing “the group that attacked the Capitol seemed to have an unusually detailed knowledge of the layout of the Capitol Complex.”² Representative Sherrill elaborated publicly:

Those Members of Congress who had groups coming through the Capitol that I saw on January 5th for reconnaissance for the next day—those Members of Congress who incited the violent crowd, those Members that attempted to help our president undermine our democracy—I’m going to see that they’re held accountable.”³

The same day, during an interview on MSNBC, Representative Sean Patrick Maloney told Americans he could “confirm” Representative Sherrill’s allegations.⁴ He told MSNBC viewers, “we find ourselves at a place where the enemy is within, and we cannot trust our own colleagues.”⁵ Similarly, on CNN on January 18, Representative Steve Cohen specifically accused a Republican colleague by name of leading a reconnaissance tour. Representative Cohen said:

¹ Letter from Rep. Mikie Sherrill et al. to Timothy Blodgett, Acting House Sergeant-at-Arm, et al. (Jan. 13, 2021).

² *Id.*

³ Rep. Mikie Sherrill, *An Address to the 11th District*, Facebook (Jan. 12, 2021).

⁴ *Deadline: White House* (MSNBC television broadcast Jan. 13, 2021) (interview with Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney).

⁵ *Id.*

Only thing that I've seen, Congressman Yarmouth refreshed my recollection yesterday. We saw Congresswoman Boebert taking a group of people for a tour sometime after the 3rd and before the 6th. I don't remember the day we were walking in a tunnel and we saw her and commented who she was and she had a large group with her. Now whether these people were people that were involved in the insurrection or not, I do not know. She was a freshman, she might have had a large number of people coming to be with her on this historic occasion and just wanting to give them the opportunity to have a tour. ***But it is pretty clear that her team is the team—she's not on the home team. She was with the visitors.***⁶

Likewise, Representative Jason Crow led a group of over 100 Democrats in calling for an investigation, in part, into the role of Members in the January 6 violence.⁷ In an interview with the *New York Times*, Representative Crow specifically accused his colleagues of being “complicit” in the January 6 violence.⁸ You also breathed life into these accusations, telling reporters in January 2021 that the allegations “will be looked into” to determine if Members “were accomplices to this insurrection.”⁹

Even now, House Democrats are continuing to parrot accusations that Republican Members led “reconnaissance” tours of the Capitol. Last month, Representative Bennie Thompson, your handpicked chair of the January 6 Select Committee, told the *Washington Post* that the Select Committee had evidence of Members “aiding or abetting” the violence.¹⁰ He alleged: “We have information that before the actual certification, people came earlier, were giving tours in the Capitol.”¹¹ Representative Thompson’s assertion to the *Washington Post* is dubious because only days earlier he told NBC’s *Meet the Press* that the Select Committee “do[es]n’t have any real knowledge that I’m aware of, of people giving tours. We heard a lot of that. But we’re still — to be honest with you, reviewing a lot of film that the House administration and other have provided the committee.”¹²

We have reviewed the security footage from the Capitol Complex during the relevant period preceding January 6, 2021, and we know it does not support these repeated Democrat accusations about so-called “reconnaissance” tours. Regrettably, the truth has not stopped these Democrat allegations. The repeated attempts by House Democrats to spread misinformation about Republican-led “reconnaissance” tours is just the latest example of how House Democrats have sought to exploit January 6 for political purposes. The Select Committee has already been

⁶ *CNN Newsroom* (CNN television broadcast Jan. 18, 2021) (interview with Rep. Steve Cohen).

⁷ Letter from Rep. Jason Crow et al. to Gene L. Dodaro, Gov. Accountability Office (Jan. 7, 2021). *See also* Luke Broadwater, *Republican lawmakers are accused of giving Capitol tours to insurrectionists before the riot as new inquiries are opened*, N.Y. Times, Jan. 13, 2021.

⁸ Luke Broadwater, *Republican lawmakers are accused of giving Capitol tours to insurrectionists before the riot as new inquiries are opened*, N.Y. Times, Jan. 13, 2021.

⁹ Marisa Schultz, *Pelosi: Any GOP lawmakers who ‘aided or abetted’ Capitol rioters should be prosecuted*, Fox News (Jan. 15, 2021).

¹⁰ *Transcript: One year later with Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-Miss.)*, Wash. Post (Jan. 6, 2022).

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Meet the Press* (NBC television broadcast Jan. 2, 2022) (interview with Rep. Bennie Thompson).

caught altering and misrepresenting nonpublic information about Republican Members,¹³ falsely attributing statements to Republican Members,¹⁴ and selectively leaking nonpublic information to create false public narratives.¹⁵ Now it appears that Representative Thompson and the Select Committee are similarly misrepresenting the contents of nonpublic security footage to wrongly accuse Republican Members of wrongdoing.

The only way for you to stop the spread of Democrat misinformation about January 6 “reconnaissance” tours is to release all of the relevant security footage. Because House Democrats released selective excerpts of this footage in conjunction with its impeachment effort last year, we know it is possible to release this footage without undermining law-enforcement procedures or processes. We call on you to release all of the footage immediately to set the record straight and allow the American people to judge for themselves the merits of these Democrat allegations.

Sincerely,



Rodney Davis
Ranking Member

¹³ Sean Davis, *During January 6 hearing, Schiff doctored text messages between Mark Meadows and Rep. Jim Jordan*, *The Federalist* (Dec. 15, 2021).

¹⁴ Daniel Chaitlin & Asher Notheis, *Jan. 6 Committee caught misportraying another text message to Mark Meadows*, *Wash. Exam.* (Dec. 17, 2021).

¹⁵ See Kimberley A. Strassell, *What the Jan. 6 panel won't probe*, *Wall St. J.* (Jan. 6, 2022).